

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BERN PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL ZURICH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, SZ

SUBJECT: SWISS CONCERN OVER EFFECT OF US TAX REFORM BILL
ON TOURISM

1. THE SWISS EMBASSY HAS REQUESTED THAT THE DEPARTMENT FORWARD TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS A NOTE, DATED JUNE 19, WHICH CONVEYS A STATEMENT BY THE SWISS NATIONAL TOURIST OFFICE, EXPRESSING "DEEP CONCERN" OVER THE "DETRIMENTAL EFFECT" ON WORLD-WIDE CONFERENCE TRAFFIC THAT ORGANIZATION EXPECTS TO RESULT FROM THE TAX REFORM BILL CURRENTLY BEFORE THAT COMMITTEE (H.R. 1040).
 2. WHEN DELIVERING THE NOTE ON JUNE 20 A SWISS EMBASSY OFFICER OPINED THAT SOME U.S. AIRLINES AND AMERICAN HOTEL INTERESTS ABROAD SHARE THEIR CONCERN OVER THIS PROPOSED MEASURE.
 3. THERE FOLLOWS THE TEXT OF THE SWISS NOTE AND THE ACCOMPANYING MEMORANDUM FROM THE SWISS NATIONAL TOURIST
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OFFICE:

BEGIN TEXT OF NOTE:

THE EMBASSY OF SWITZERLAND PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS
TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND HAS THE HONOR TO ENCLOSE,
FOR TRANSMITTAL TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
A STATEMENT OF THE SWISS NATIONAL TOURIST OFFICE
CONCERNING A BILL TO BROADEN THE INCOME TAX BASE,
PROVIDE EQUITY AMONG TAXPAYERS, AND TO OTHERWISE REFORM
THE INCOME, ESTATE, AND GIFT TAX PROVISIONS (H.R. 1040).

THE EMBASSY OF SWITZERLAND AVAILS ITSELF OF THIS
OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE THE
ASSURANCES OF ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

WASHINGTON,D.C.

JUNE 19, 1975

END TEXT OF NOTE

BEGIN TEXT OF MEMORANDUM

MEMORANDUM FROM THE SWISS NATIONAL TOURIST OFFICE

AS THE OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SWISS TOURIST
INDUSTRY, WE AT THE SWISS NATIONAL TOURIST OFFICE HAVE
NOTED WITH DEEP CONCERN THE CONTENTS OF A TAX REFORM
BILL CURRENTLY BEFORE YOUR COMMITTEE.

CANCELLING TAX BENEFITS FOR AMERICANS ATTENDING CONVENTIONS
ABROAD WOULD GREATLY AFFECT COMMITTEES AND ASSOCIATIONS
IN THEIR CHOICE OF MEETING SPOTS. SWITZERLAND STRONGLY
FAVORS THE WORLD-WIDE MOVEMENT OF CONFERENCE TRAFFIC.
WE ARE CONVINCED THAT IF THE PROPOSED BILL IS PASSED IT
WOULD HAVE A DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON THE EVER INCREASING
INFLUX OF CONVENTION TRAFFIC TO YOUR COUNTRY AS WELL. WE
HOPE THEREFORE THAT THE PREVAILING REGULATIONS CAN BE
MAINTAINED - TO THE INESTIMABLE ADVANTAGE OF THE MANY
COUNTRIES CONCERNED THROUGHOUT THE FREE WORLD.

THE UNITED STATES AND SWITZERLAND ARE JUSTLY FAMOUS FOR
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THEIR COMMITMENT TO FREE ENTERPRISE AND WE BELIEVE THAT
OUR LIBERAL ATTITUDES MUST BE CHAMPIONED EVEN IN THE FACE
OF THE TREMENDOUS PROBLEMS BESETTING US ALL. WE
SINCERELY HOPE THAT YOU WILL CONSIDER THE TAX REFORM
BILL WITH A VIEW TO THE NEEDS OF THE WORLD TRAVEL
COMMUNITY AND TRUST THAT YOU WILL SAFEGUARD THE VITAL
FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT THAT IT JEOPARDIZES.

END TEXT OF MEMORANDUM

4.THE DEPARTMENT OFFICER ACCEPTED THE NOTE WITHOUT
COMM NT. IT WILL BE FORWARDED TO THE COMMITTEE FOR ITS
INFORMATION. INGERSOLL

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